

FACT SHEET



Second Street Subsite Hastings, Nebraska

October 2002

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is releasing a Proposed Plan to address ground water contamination by hazardous substances in the aquifer at the Second Street Subsite of the Hastings Ground Water Contamination Site in Hastings, Nebraska. The action would be taken under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as the Superfund law.

The EPA Proposed Plan recommends actions that will help to restore contaminated ground water at this subsite to its beneficial uses by treating the water. Soil contamination at the source area will be addressed at a later date.

EPA is asking for public comments on its Proposed Plan. Although EPA and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) are recommending a proposed action to address the contamination, a final decision will not be made until EPA reviews comments from the public. After the comment period closes, EPA will make a decision, which will be published in a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD will also include a summary of EPA's responses to the comments received during the public comment period.

ABOUT THE CONTAMINATION

The contamination at this subsite consists of benzene, toluene, xylene, naphthalene and PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) and other compounds. The primary source is a manufactured gas plant (MGP) that operated until the 1930's. A building at the former MGP property was occupied by the Hastings police department until Summer of last year.

PUBLIC MEETING AND COMMENT PERIOD

EPA will hold a public meeting to provide information on the Proposed Plan for the Second Street Subsite. The public meeting will be held:

**Thursday, October 17, 2002
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Hastings Public Library
2nd Floor Auditorium
4th and Denver Streets
Hastings, Nebraska**

EPA will take comments on the Second Street Subsite Proposed Plan through November 5, 2002. Comments may be made at the public meeting, or sent to EPA at the address listed below:

Beckie Himes
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of External Programs
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
Fax: 913-551-7066
himes.beckie@epa.gov

RECOMMENDED REMEDY

EPA's preferred cleanup alternative consists of the following four elements:

1. The proposed remedy would extract and treat contaminated ground water east of Pine Avenue. The ground water would be treated, most likely with granular activated carbon, and discharged to Heartwell Lake.
2. In the remainder of the contaminated area east of Pine Avenue, oxygen-release compounds would be added to the ground water to enhance existing bacterial cleanup processes already found in the aquifer. The compound expected to be used, magnesium peroxide, degrades to a harmless magnesium hydroxide "milk of magnesia" residue.
3. Existing systems that partially address the contamination originating west of Pine Avenue would continue to operate. This includes an extraction and treatment unit and a soil vapor extraction unit in the "source area" west of Pine Avenue, and an in-well aeration treatment system located at Pine Avenue.
4. Long term ground water monitoring would assess the effectiveness of these steps.

The existing systems at Pine Avenue and west of Pine Avenue help to prevent the contamination from spreading, but are not aggressive enough to clean up the aquifer permanently. In addition to the above remedy, further steps are expected to be taken later to address the contaminated soil in the source area.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Proposed Plan and other site-related documents provide details of the nature and extent of contamination and the work that has been completed at the site. These documents are part of the Administrative Record File, available at the following locations:

Hastings Public Library
4th and Denver Streets
Hastings, Nebraska

EPA Region 7
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact:

Beckie Himes, Community Involvement Coordinator
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